



U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 32, No. 8, Whole No. 297, November 2015

Early Registered Back Stamps

by Ardy Callender

Modern registered mail is back stamped along the flaps on the reverse of envelopes to show that they have been examined, properly sealed and for security (tampering) purposes. This practice appears to have begun in mid 1877 at the post offices of New York City, New York and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Reasons seem apparent for this practice but specific regulations or instructions detailing with this back stamping process have not been found in either the PL & R or the Postal Guides for 1877 (personal communication Mike Ludeman). However, a reference for placing a "post mark" on the reverse of letters has been located in the 1879 Postal Laws and Regulations (see below).

Section 856 **Receiving Registered Matter at a Post-Office for Delivery**

"On the arrival of a mail at any post-office the pouch must be opened only by the postmaster, his deputy, or a sworn clerk. If these are found to correspond, the postmaster will examine the letters or parcels as to their condition, **post mark them on the back**, enter on the Record-of-registered-matter-received-and-delivered, date of arrival, the number and postmark of the registered package, and enter the number and addresses of the registered letters or parcels, and attach the return-receipts to the letters or parcels by bands of thread."

Section 856 details the need for a back stamp ("post mark") but does not specify it to be struck along the flaps on the reverse of the letter. All early examples from both New York City and Philadelphia have the back stamp struck across the flaps, usually in one or less commonly two strikes. Examples have not been observed in which the back stamp is placed on any other area of the letter.

Although some covers originated in New York /Philadelphia, the majority receiving this back stamp marking originated in another city and were either addressed to New York City/Philadelphia or transited

through each of these cities to a different final destination. Both New York City and Philadelphia employed a similar "filigree" marking (see figures 1 and 2). Within the central rectangle of each was space for the city and date which were changeable and probably made of the same material as the "filigree"; either rubber or pot metal. New York City used the complete year date (1877) while Philadelphia employed just the last two digits of the year (77). Tom Clarke, the noted researcher of Philadelphia postmarks, records the Philadelphia "filigree" as type X48 in his publication "A Catalog of Philadelphia Post-



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Continued on page 144

The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Arden D. Callender, Jr., Co-Editor
1546 Sheltons Bend Ct.
Houston, TX 77077
callenderardy@sbcglobal.net

John Donnes, Co-Editor
202 Willow Dr.
Gretna, LA 70053
jdonnes@cox.net

Published four times a year by the U.S. Cancellation Club and included with membership. The U.S.C.C. is APS Affiliate #75.

Annual Dues: \$26 per year, \$31 for international members. Address inquiries to: Joe Crosby at the address below.

Back Issues through 1997 are available at \$2.00 each postpaid. 1998 to May 2008 issues, \$3.00. August 2008 and later issues, \$6.00. Discount of 10% on orders of 25 or more issues. Contact: Vince Costello at address below.

Address library inquiries to: U.S. Cancellation Club Library, Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. (See the August 2003 NEWS for details or contact Roger Curran at the address below.) Address all other communications to either of the NEWS editors.

U.S.C.C. Officers

Vince Costello	318 Hoffnagle St., Philadelphia, PA 19111	vinman2119@aol.com	President
Matthew Kewriga	47 Kearny St., Ste 500, San Francisco, CA 94108	matt@kewriga.com	Vice President
Dan Richards	116 Random Oakes Lane, Mendocville, LA 70448	dhr327@att.net	2nd Vice President
Joe Crosby	5009 Barnsteeple Ct., Oklahoma City, OK 73142	joecrosby@cox.net	Secretary/Treasurer
Roger Curran	20 University Ave., Lewisburg, PA 17837	rcurran@dejazzd.com	Governor at Large

Advertising Rates

	Per Issue	Yearly
Half Page	\$110.00	\$400.00
Quarter Page	\$55.00	\$200.00
Column Inch	\$15.00	\$50.00

For information concerning advertising, please contact the editor.

AVAILABLE — U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB PUBLICATIONS

U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS, Cross Reference Index for all issues: 1951-2009. Presented in three separate sections: Cancellations, Post Offices, and Article Titles, \$18 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Wesson "Time-On-Bottom" Markings Revisited, Compiled by Ralph A. Edson and Gilbert L. Levere, update of 1990 La Posta monograph, 190p. See p. 70 of November 2010 NEWS for announcement. \$25 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps, by Kenneth A. Whitfield, is now available again. The book contains more than 6,000 tracings and is a valuable supplement to the Skinner-Eno and Cole books. This printing incorporates at no extra cost the latest Whitfield update pages. \$50 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

For Whitfield update pages only, \$8 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Checks payable to U.S.C.C. and sent to:
U.S.C.C., 20 University Avenue, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Help Wanted - Pictorial Cancellations

Dan Fellows has submitted the following scans in hope a USCC member may recognize the cancellations.

Both cancellations are struck on Scott #210. The first, on a piece dated 31 March 1887, is from East Boston Station, Massachusetts and appears to be a turkey. The second is on a 16 February 1887 cover from Scotch Ridge, Ohio.

Dan sees either a sea monster or dinosaur with an open mouth with teeth and a long neck with a triangular shaped eye above the mouth.

Tracings of each are provided at right. Any comments?



Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History

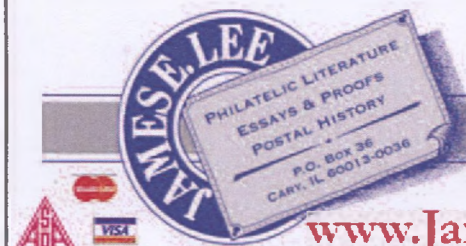
By Leonard Piskiewicz

This phenomenal book is the culmination of more than 25 years accumulating Chicago postal history items by its author. It provides a comprehensive analysis of cancellations usage for all markings known used in Chicago from its beginnings as a post office in 1831 until the mid-1950s, a hugely useful book for members of the U.S. Cancellation Club! The book also includes those types of markings that continued to the end of the 20th century and are of interest to specialists (e.g., airmail, registry). 576 pages...packed with illustrations.

Regular Price \$75.00
Special to USCC Members Only:

\$60.00
+ \$5 shipping

Phone: (847) 462-9130
Email: jim@jameslee.com



www.JamesLee.com

President's Message

Dear Readers,

StampShow was a success again this year. Grand Rapids, MI is a great location. There were many club members who stopped by our society table and we also signed up new members. I would like to express my appreciation for those who volunteered to man the Society table.

Roger Rhoads gave a wonderful presentation on his exhibit "*Chicago: House of Blues*" which also won Gold and the US Cancellation Club Award. Congratulations, Roger! I highly recommend that you see this exhibit when the opportunity presents itself. You will not be disappointed.

With summer over and the colors of fall are changing every day, we now can turn our attention back to our collections. The Editors and I look forward to receiving your articles for the *NEWS*, so please get pen to paper and submit.

The web site is a work in progress and should be up and running in the near future. I didn't realize the amount of work that goes into building a quality web site.

The Holidays are just around the corner and may you enjoy the joyous season with your family and friends.

Sincerely,
Vince Costello

Continued from front page...

marks, 18th Century to the Present" (Part II, October 1990, Philadelphia). He also records a sub-type X48a (PHILA in capital letters, day/month without both Pa and year date). New York markings were struck in blue ink while Philadelphia used purple ink. Examples from both cities are known used to foreign destinations as well as on domestic mail. Both the front and reverse of all covers are illustrated in this article.

Since more examples are known from New York City it will be discussed first. Thus far the marking has been recorded between 12 June 1877 and 2 January 1878. The earliest recorded example is shown in figures 3 and 4. This cover left Providence, Rhode Island on 11 June 1877, transited through New York on 12 June 1877 and arrived at Willmar, Minnesota (date unknown as receiving back stamps were not a common practice during this period). Prior to June 1877 the New York City Registry Department did not use any markings on the reverse of covers. A cover with two strikes of the back stamp is shown in figures 5 and 6. This cover left Thompson, Illinois on 28 June 1877, transited New York City on 1 July 1877 and was sent on to Morris, Connecticut. The straight line to the right of each back stamp is a portion of the side frame of the cancelling device and is seen on many covers.

A foreign usage is shown in figures 7 and 8. This example originated in Cleveland, Ohio on 1 October 1877, transited thru New York City on 3 October 1877 and reached Niemes, Austria on 17 October 1877. The two 10 cent banknotes (Scott #161) paid the 10 cent registry fee plus double the 5 cent UPU rate. The small black underlined 2 at the upper left of the cover is an indication of the double rate. This "all over" ad cover is unfortunately badly faded but some of the original lettering is barely visible towards the center of the cover.

Figures 9 and 10 illustrate a somewhat wrinkled cover sent from the Consulate General of the German Empire in New York City to Folsomdale New York. The registry postmark on the front indicates it was received at the NY Registry Department on 2 November 1877 on its way to up state New York. On the reverse it received a weakly struck "filigree" struck on top of an official German Consulate seal on the same day. The Consulate applied their seal for security purposes and the clerk from the



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

registry department applied the back stamp over the seal reinforcing the idea that the back stamp was used for security purposes.

The latest example of this marking from New York is shown in figures 11 and 12. It is very interesting because of the many elements involved in its delivery to its final destination. It appears to have left Point Jefferson, Louisiana on 25? December 1877 (see docket at upper left corner) on its way to New Orleans, Louisiana. Point Jefferson, a DPO (5 October 1847 to 12 October 1879), was located in Morehouse Parish in northern Louisiana just at the border with Arkansas. As was the case with many towns at the time, it was located along the rail line on which the cover probably made its way to New Orleans. The cover was addressed to F. Stackman, 27 Bond Street and after arriving in New Orleans, clerks at the NO Post Office determined that there was no Bond Street in New Orleans. The clerks deduced that 27 Bond Street was actually in New York City and crossed out New Orleans and wrote in "no such St. in New Orl, La" and added "NY" in blue pencil. The cover arrived in New York on 2 January 1878 as evidenced by the "filigree" back stamp. The 3 cent entire is franked with three 3 cent (Scott #158) banknotes and a single 1 cent (Scott #156) banknote which has an imprint capture at the bottom margin.

One final New York cover is shown in figures 13 and 14. It was mailed from Branch E in New York on 3 September 1878 and is addressed to Lockport, New York. The "filigree" back stamp is also dated 3 September 1878 on the reverse. This is a very late usage of this marking as all other registry back stamps observed after 7 February 1878 are of a completely different type. The earliest recorded example of this new style is shown on the cover in figures 15 and 16 on the cover. The new type of back stamp has a stylized "REGISTERED" in a large rectangle with a changeable date at the center of an interior rectangle. These markings continue



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 12



Figure 11

to be struck in blue until late 1879 when as early as 2 January 1880, they are now struck in purple. There are two possibilities for the late use of the "filigree" marking shown in figure 14; the marking was either applied at Station E or it was pulled out of retirement in the Main Post Office Registry Department (the second scenario seems more likely - probably a transit mark thru the main post office).

Philadelphia's "filigree" markings range between 28 July 1877 and 22 March 1878 (personal communication Tom Clarke). Like New York City, the "filigree" was the first back stamp used by Philadelphia's registry department. A cover dated 4 December 1877 originating in Philadelphia is shown in figures 17 and 18. It was addressed to Sandusky Ohio and received the purple Philadelphia back



Figure 13

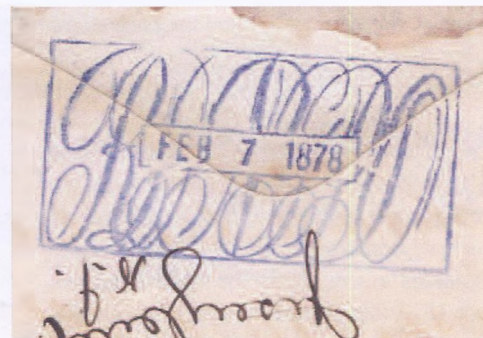


Figure 16



Figure 14



Figure 15

stamp the same day as the postmark. There is no receiving mark. It is franked with a pair of 2 cent banknotes (Scott #178) and a pair and two singles of three cent (Scott #158) banknotes paying the double domestic rate (6 cents) and the registry fee (10 cents).

A single rate registered cover originating in East Fairfield, Ohio on 19? Novem-

ber 1877 and addressed to Mr. Wm Thomas Stooksberry, Philadelphia Dental College is shown in figures 19 and 20. This cover took quite some time reaching Philadelphia as the "filigree" on the reverse indicates its arrival on 13 December 1877. It is franked with a single 10 cent (Scott #161) paying the registry fee and a single 3 cent (Scott #158) for the domestic fee.



Figure 17

According to Tom Clarke (personal communication), the "filigree" was replaced by a "strange looking" plate of wavy lines that he records as type x49 (see figure 21). This new marking was used as early as 28 October 1878.

Although the cover shown in figures 22 and 23 is damaged (probable mouse), it is the author's favorite example of these markings. It possesses both the New York and Philadelphia markings on the same cover! It left 4 December 1877 from New York receiving a blue 4 December 1877 "filigree" on the reverse and arrived in Philadelphia receiving a purple 4 December 1877 Philadelphia "filigree" struck over the New York marking.

Since both of these markings were only used over a relatively short period, they are somewhat scarce and difficult to acquire. It is hoped that as more examples are reported, their range of usage may be extended. I want to thank Tom Clarke for his help and information on the Philadelphia markings.



Figure 18



Figure 20



Figure 19



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23

Colored Cancels on the 1869 Series: Stars

by Ed Field



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

In this article, any cancel with a roundish core and four or more points is considered to be a star. The figures are arranged in ascending order of the number of points. They are chosen to illustrate solid, negative, hollow-centered, outline, and intaglio stars, as well as the range of star colors on 1869 stamps and covers. On-cover examples are electronically clipped. Where known, towns of origin are given. Though representative, the examples shown below are by no means exhaustive.

Cancels shown in prior *NEWS* issues are omitted, specifically the green and purple six-pointed stars-in-stars from Farmland IN (May 2012) and the blue Philadelphia intaglio star (February 2014). Also, see the article (*Chronicle of U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, Nov 2011) about Nick Kardasis's 1869 collection for spectacular strikes of star cancels on 1869 stamps.

Figure 1 shows a solid four-point red star of unknown origin on the 30-cent stamp. Colored cancels on high-value 1869 stamps are scarce, and colored fancy cancels are rare. To my knowledge, this example is unique.

Figures 2 and 3 show, respectively, blue and red four-point, hollow-centered stars on the 10-cent stamp. Both cancels are of unknown origin. The blue hollow-centered star is also known on the 6-cent stamp. Figure 4 shows a mourning cover from Hartford, Wisconsin bearing a magenta four-point star of similar, but not identical,



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

shape as the ones just shown. The cover is dated August 24, probably 1869. The only other cover known to bear this cancel is dated January 3, probably 1870.

The next nine figures show examples of solid five-point star cancels. Figure 8 shows an asym-



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

metric red star on a APR 15 1870 cover from Millersburgh OH, a post office known for fancy red cancels. Figure 9 shows a light purple star on the 12-cent stamp. The cancel color and stamp value suggest that this cancel was struck on an 1869 cover from Philadelphia to England, but I have not seen any covers that confirm that origin. Figure 10 shows a green star on the 3-cent stamp. A few similar cancels are known on the 3-cent stamp and are sometimes attrib-



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20

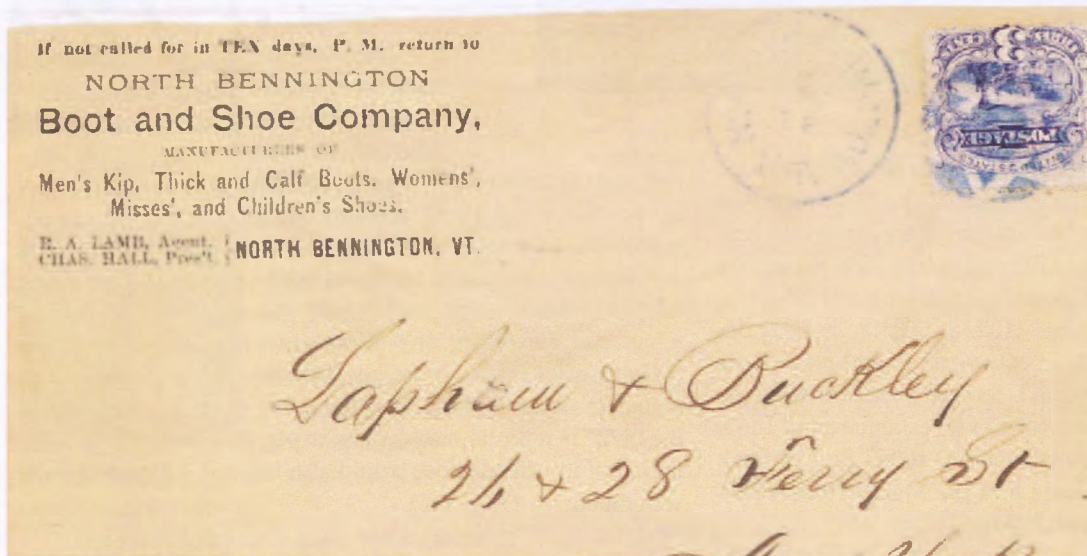


Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



uted to Sharon VT, but I have never seen an 1869 cover confirming that origin. Figures 11-13 show, respectively, red, purple, and green star-in-circle cancels.

The next three figures show examples of five-point intaglio star cancels. Figure 14 shows such a cancel inscribed in a blue pentagon, origin unknown. I have never seen another. Figure 15 shows a Nov 18 1869 cover bearing the intaglio red star of Plattsburgh NB.

The next three Figures show negative five-point stars of unknown origin. Figure 16 shows a tiny negative star inscribed in a red background on the 12-cent stamp. To my knowledge, this example is unique. Figure 17 shows a larger negative star inscribed in a solid purple circle on the 3-cent stamp. Figure 18 shows a piece bearing a partial brown MASS postmark and matching complex cancel consisting of a negative star, within a solid circle, within an outline star. True brown is the third rarest of 1869 cancel colors, after orange and ultramarine. I believe this example to be unique.

Figure 19 shows a blue six-point star on the 12-cent stamp; and Figure 20 shows red six-point stars on a pair of 2-cent stamps.

Most of the six-point stars I have seen on 1869 stamps are intaglio "Stars-of-David". Figure 21 shows three such blue stars of unknown origin on a strip of 1-cent stamps. Figure 22 shows a bold blue Star on a JAN 12 1870 cover from North Bennington VT; Figure 23 shows a similar star on a FEB 18 1870 cover from Newport NH. The purple intaglio Star-of-David shown in Figure 24 is from an APR 27 (year unknown) cover from Owego NY. Of the 25 or so covers known from Owego during the 1869 era, all

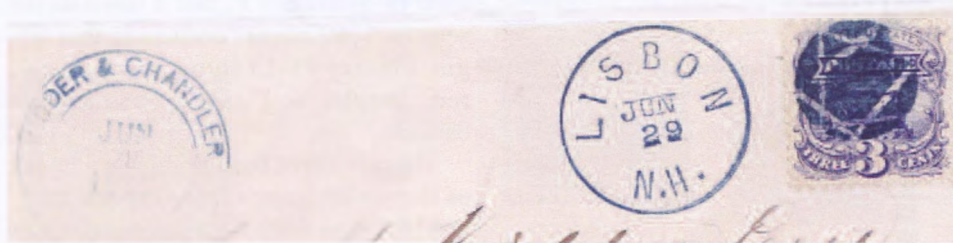


Figure 25

but two bear cancels struck in green; only this star and a grid (see Feb 2015 NEWS) are known in purple.

Figure 25 shows a blue eight-point intaglio star on a June 29 1869 cover from Lisbon NH. The cancel is formed from two intersecting rectangles.



Figure 26



Figure 27

I conclude by showing two examples of many-pointed stars, sometimes called "starbursts". Figure 26 shows such a cancel with eleven or twelve points. It was struck in red on a DEC 15 1869 cover from Millersburgh OH (see Figure 8 above). Finally, Figure 27 shows a blue starburst with at least 15 points on the 2-cent stamp. The origin of this cancel is unknown, but its color and freehand style lead me to suspect Savannah.

The One Half Cancel

by Roger D. Curran



Figure 1

There is an odd "1/2" cancellation that is occasionally seen on 19th century U.S. stamps – see Figure 1. The "1/2" on the 2¢ red is smaller than the others but otherwise appears to be very similar. Figure 2 is the Whitfield illustration (#6368). He reports it on the 1883 issue and attributes the marking to Hoodside, Delaware with date of December 21, 1886. As far as I can determine there never was such a post office. Could it be that a poorly struck or written Hocessin, Delaware postmark was misinterpreted? This operating post office was established in 1863.

Edward Willard illustrates the cancel in his Sc 210 book and referred to an article on page 8 of the March 1958 NEWS which is quoted in pertinent part below:

"The Cancellation is on a wrapper with a 2¢ Black Jack, #73 sent from Baltimore to Bremen. It was recently acquired by Dr. Robert S. deWasserman (#418), 22, Boulevard Lambertmont, Brussels, Belgium. Can any of you explain the significance of this marking? ... The Black Jack is tied to wrapper by the town mark."

It is not clear whether the Black Jack was actually canceled by the "1/2" or just appeared on the same wrapper. One of the Sc 210 stamps in Figure 1 was struck with a partial CDS. What could well have been an "E," apparently the last letter of a word, is in the CDS. Next to this letter to the left is a partial loop that could be the top of an "R" but, for some reason the loop is farther from the rim than is the presumed "E." Figure 3 shows a Balti-

more CDS that illustrates the expected consistent distance of the letters from the rim. Even though a "1/2" has been reported from Baltimore, this does not mean, of course,

that what are presumably later examples in the 1880s and 1890s are also from Baltimore.

Readers are asked to report additional examples of this marking used as a canceler as well as any information that identifies one or more post offices that used such a marking. Assuming that the "1/2" is a postal marking, an explanation of its intended use would also be welcomed.

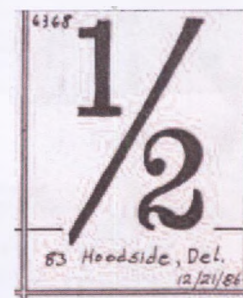


Figure 2



Figure 3


The Classic Cancel

Quality 19th Century U.S. Stamps, Cancels and Postal History

John Valenti

P.O. Box 211
Wheeling, IL 60090-0211
(847) 224-2401 ✉ classiccancel@att.net
Visit my Web Site at <http://www.theclassiccancel.com>

Member: APS, USPCS, USCC



"running man"

EXHIBIT AWARDS WON BY USCC MEMBERS July-September 2015



MINNESOTA STAMP EXPO: July 17-19

Mike Ellingson: Gold medal for "The Barr-Fyke Machine Cancels of the United States"

Matt Kewriga: Court of Honor for "Danish West Indies Foreign Mails: 1746-UPU"

AMERICOVER: August 14-16

Nancy Clark: Silver medal for "Jamestown Settlement; 400th Anniversary"

APS STAMPSHOW: AUGUST 20-24

Nancy Clark: Gold medal; also Lighthouse Stamp Society Award for "Massachusetts Island Counties Postal History to 1890"

Gary Hendren: Gold medal for "St. Louis Street Car Mail 1892-1915"

Matt Kewriga: WSP Prix d'Honneur for "Danish West Indies Foreign Mails: 1748-UPU"

Roger Rhoads: Gold medal; also USCC Award for best U.S. cancellation exhibit for "Chicago: House of Blues"

SESCAL: SEPT 30-OCT 3

Ed Field: Gold medal; also Postal History Society Award; U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Medal; and USCC Award for best U.S. cancellation exhibit for "Colored Cancels on U.S. Stamps of 1869"

Hand Carved Cancels With a Number or Letter in the Center

by Roger D. Curran

The August 2014 *NEWS* illustrated on page 59 a circle of wedges cancel with a typeset "27" in the center on a postal card dated January 27 (1882). The card was postmarked at Bellefont, Virginia. A second Bellefont example has now come to our attention bearing the same or very similar cancel with a "4" in the center – see Figure 1. The stamp is a Sc 207. As with the example reported earlier, the number in the center corresponds to the day of the month in the CDS and involves a smaller typeface than that of the CDS numeral. The 2014 article also presented two off-cover 2¢ Columbians with somewhat similar cancels, one with a "5" and the other a "12" in the center. We have learned nothing further about these cancels since then.



Figure 1

The Bellefont cancels are reminiscent of a somewhat similar but more elaborate cancel used at High Point, North Carolina on 1861 issue stamps – see Figure 2 for Whitfield tracing 4757. The 2012 Whitfield update lists a usage date of January 4, 1868. Skinner-Eno illustrates (ND-Y14) an apparently worn High Point cancel, more similar to Figure 1 than is Figure 2, with "69" in the center – see Figure 3.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

We'll close with the puzzling cancel in Figure 4. The large figure is more or less centered in the void. Is it an "E," a "3" or something else? Is the small "1" (or whatever it is) intended to be there or is it just superfluous ink that was somehow deposited? Perhaps this cancel came from a small bottle cap or some other item manufactured for a non-postal purpose that was pressed into service as a convenience.

Reader opinions and information on any of the above cancels will be welcomed.

Philadelphia Cancels – New Reports

by Roger D. Curran



Figure 1

The February 2010 *NEWS* (page 18) illustrated the off-cover stamp shown here as Figure 1. It was submitted by Dick Nunge. I opined as follows:

“The curious thing about the cancel is that it was designed to be struck in a horizontal position rather than vertical. Out of the hundreds of U.S. ellipses noted over the years, I don’t recall seeing before such an ellipse produced by what was apparently a manufactured canceler.”



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 6

Nothing more was learned until the APS Stampshow in Grand Rapids this summer. Bruce Johnson came by the USCC table and showed us the cover illustrated in Figure 2. To say that it caused some excitement is an understatement. It is clearly a second example of the Figure 1 ellipse and we now know the post office of origin. Upon returning home I checked with Norm Shachat, editor of the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian* and long time collector of Philadelphia material, and Tom Clarke, author of *A Catalog of Philadelphia Postmarks*, the standard reference on the subject. Neither had seen the Figure 2 marking before.



Figure 3

The February 2011 *NEWS* (page 82) ran a brief article on a similar Philadelphia ellipse except that it is oriented in the normal vertical position – see the Gilbert Burr tracing at Figure 3. Six 1877 covers bearing this 13-bar “2”

ellipse have been reported to the *NEWS* with the following dates: February 20 and April 5, 6, 16 and 23 (two examples). The February 20 and April 6 reports are from Norm. Both April 23 reports are from Tom. The April 5 is from Dan Haskett and the April 16 from Ardy Callender. The Figure 2 cover is dated April 4 and we can reasonably assume an 1877 year date. There was apparently some experimentation going on with the use of handstamps employing vertical and horizontal ellipse cancelers at this time. The experimentation also involved the number and arrangement of the removable slugs in the center of the postmarker. Page 153 shows the February 20 and April 6 covers with Norm’s write-up. The February 20 cover has the distinction of bearing the earliest reported use of a Philadelphia ellipse canceler.



Figure 5

When Bruce sent the scan of the Figure 2 cover following the Grand Rapids show, he also included scans of the two single line Philadelphia ovals shown here as Figures 4 and 5. Ovals with this design preceded the very familiar double ovals (Figure 6) that, over the years, had a long range of numbers in the center. In Tom’s Philadelphia catalog (1991 revised edition) he listed the single line oval only with numbers “1” and “2.” A March 5, 1881 date is listed for the “1” oval. He considered this to probably be a late usage and estimated that this style of oval came into use in mid-1880. In a recent email exchange, Tom indicated that, in the last decade or so, single line ovals with a “3” and “4” had been seen but, until now, no numbers above “4.”

If readers have in their collections on or off cover examples of any of the three cancels discussed above, or know of reports of same, please contact the *NEWS*.

1872 – 1879 Period
1872 Rates

Goldsborough Experimental Duplex, Feb. – April 1877

Single Rate Letter to New York

Posted at Phila. on Feb. 20, 1877



3c. paid with 3c 1873 Continental Bank Note

c. PHILADELPHIA / time / date / 1877 / PA. (1877), 23 mm., black
(with 2 in circle, 13-bar ellipse duplex cancel)

Single Rate Letter to Richland Centre, Pa.

Posted at Phila. on April 6, 1877



3c., paid with 3c 1873 Continental Bank Note

The placement of time, date and year in the small dial made changing difficult. Thus the year was eliminated in the similar postmark subsequently adopted.

Circular Ellipse Updates

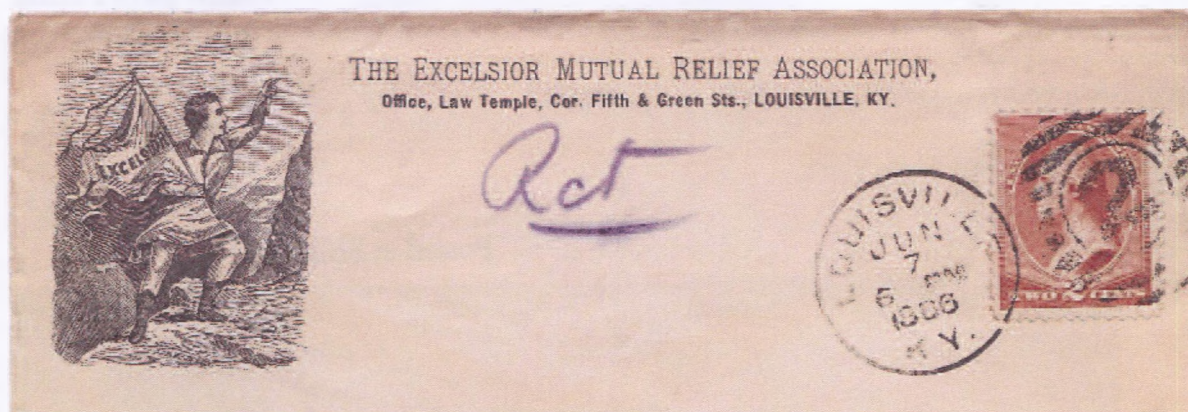


Figure 1

Since the last issue of the *NEWS*, a complete 10 bar cancellation from Louisville has been obtained and traced. The ellipse portion of the cancellation was originally figured in a 1987, *La Posta Monograph Series* (volume 10) by Louis Cohen entitled “*Postal History of Louisville, Kentucky*”. Unfortunately the volume did not illustrate the CDS. Both a cover and tracing of the complete cancel are shown.

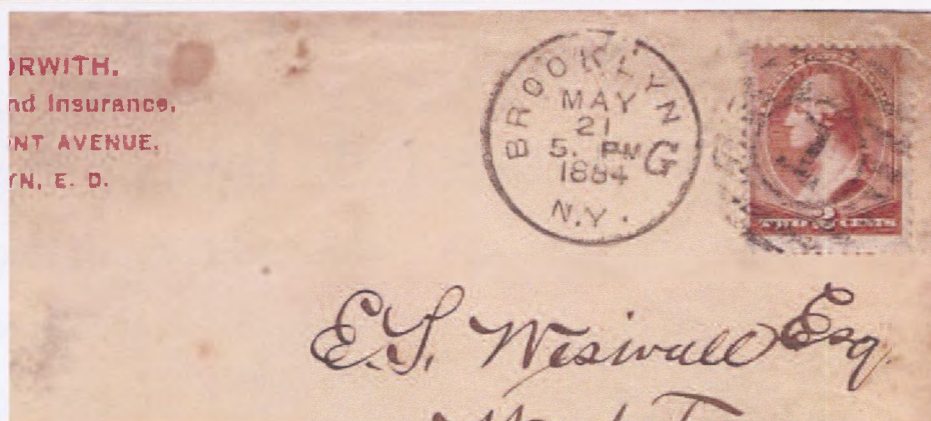


Figure 2

Also, thanks to USCC member Dan Fellows, a new number listing can be added to the chart for Brooklyn, New York. A cover from Station G with a 9 bar #1 ellipse has been found, Figure 2. It is dated 21 May 1884 and now indicates Station G used both numerals 1 and 2. In

the original article it was speculated that each Station may have used more than one numeral at each location. The presence of two numbers in use at Station G seems to provide some proof for this speculation. Any further information is gladly solicited.

Boston “PAID” in Frame Cancel

by Roger D. Curran

Wilbur W. Davis, co-editor of the 1949 landmark book on Boston postmarks, wrote in the March 1952 *US Cancellation Club Quarterly* about the framed Boston “PAID” cancel that is seen on 1857 and 1861 issue stamps. He described it as:

“... so common that it is usually passed by without much thought. But few realize that there are two varieties of this marking.”

Whitfield’s tracings of the two cancels are shown as Figures 1 and 2.

With respect to ink color, Mr. Davis stated:

“... the PAID usually came in black. The exception is blue

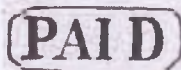


Figure 1

of which I have three copies, but they are rare. I have recently seen a copy in red on a foreign mail cover.”

Figure 3 illustrates a local cover bearing two copies of the dark blue Sc 63b struck with the Figure 2 cancel in blue. In their Boston postmarks book, Blake and Davis report blue strikes dated November 15, 1862 and December 13, 1863 with the Figure 2 cancel and a red June 12, 1861 strike, also involving the Figure 2 cancel, on a cover from France prepaid to Boston.¹

I interpret the listing to indicate that



Figure 2

the red PAID was not canceling a stamp. The cover in Figure 3 (page 155) is dated December 12 with no indication of a year date. The fact that one of the blue strikes mentioned above is dated December 13, 1863 suggests that the Figure 3 cover was also sent in 1863.

I’d be interested to learn of blue or red examples in readers’ collections and any information about blue or red uses.

¹ Maurice C. Blake and Wilbur W. Davis *Boston Postmarks to 1890* (1949) Reprinted 1974 by Quarterman Publications, Lawrence, MA, pp. 132-3.



Figure 3

One Less Waterbury Cancel

by Roger D. Curran



Figure 1

The May 2015 NEWS illustrated and described briefly several cancellations in the collection of Club member Chuck Collins. Two of them are shown here as Figure 1



Figure 2

and are listed by Paul Rohloff as Waterbury, Connecticut cancels.¹ Mr. Rohloff referred to them as “garden paths” and reported dates of use for the one on the left as 11/23/74-11/26/75 and for the one on the right as 1/29/?-2/8/75². Both were rated by Rohloff as “Not more than 8 copies known.”³ Chuck submitted a third stamp with a very similar but slightly different cancel that is shown here as Figure 2. I described it in the May 2015 article as a:



Figure 3

“... variation that is not listed in Rohloff but surely must also be a Waterbury cancel.”

That was then and now is now. And now there is before me the card shown in Figure 3 which demonstrates that the cancel is not a Waterbury but actually a Naugatuck, Connecticut cancel. The dateline on the back of the card reads “April 9, 1875.” The cancel is not listed in Cole, Whitfield, or the book *Connecticut Post Offices and Postmarks* by Arthur J. Warmsley, so perhaps it was used only briefly.

I wonder what story exists sur-

rounding this cancel. Naugatuck is located very close to Waterbury, just south of its present day boundary and one supposes the similarity of the Waterbury and Naugatuck cancels likely derives from some contact between the two post offices rather than pure happenstance. Any additional information that readers can supply as well as any potential explanations will be welcomed.

¹Rohloff, Paul C. *The Waterbury Cancellations 1865-1890* The Collectors Club of Chicago (1979) pp 46-7.

²Ibid.

³Ibid., pp. 4, 46.

Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran

A small category of cancellations, that is also one of the most unusual, is comprised of ticket punch precancels found on the large numeral postage due stamps. All are small in size. Those most often seen are the hearts from Baltimore, Maryland, although even they are decidedly scarce. A star from Binghamton, New York is known as is a square or "diamond" from Farmington, Maine. Westerly, Rhode Island used several designs including three joined circles, a single circle, and a Maltese cross.

We have not before illustrated in these pages the Farmington "diamond" and are now able to do so through the courtesy of Ray Porter – see Figure 1. The book *Silent Precancels* by David W. Smith, published by the Precancel Stamp Society, lists the cancel but only reports it on the 3¢ brown (J3) stamp. Here we have it struck on J1 and J2.

The May 2013 *NEWS* discussed an ellipse with "35" in the center. Some strikes show wear in a manner that is uncharacteristic of the typical ellipse cancels produced by metal cancelers. This, of course, raises the question of what material was used in making the canceler facing. I wrote in the 2013 article that

I suspected the cancel to be from Rochester, New York where odd ellipses are known to have been used – "suspected" because the only potential on-cover example seen involved an incomplete and thus ambiguous strike of the ellipse. Recently, however, the postal card in Figure 2 came to our attention confirming that this particular "35" ellipse, previously seen on a number of off-cover stamps, is indeed from Rochester. This cancel, incidentally, is not part of a Rochester set but rather the "35" is just an isolated number.

The cover in Figure 3 is post-



Figure 1

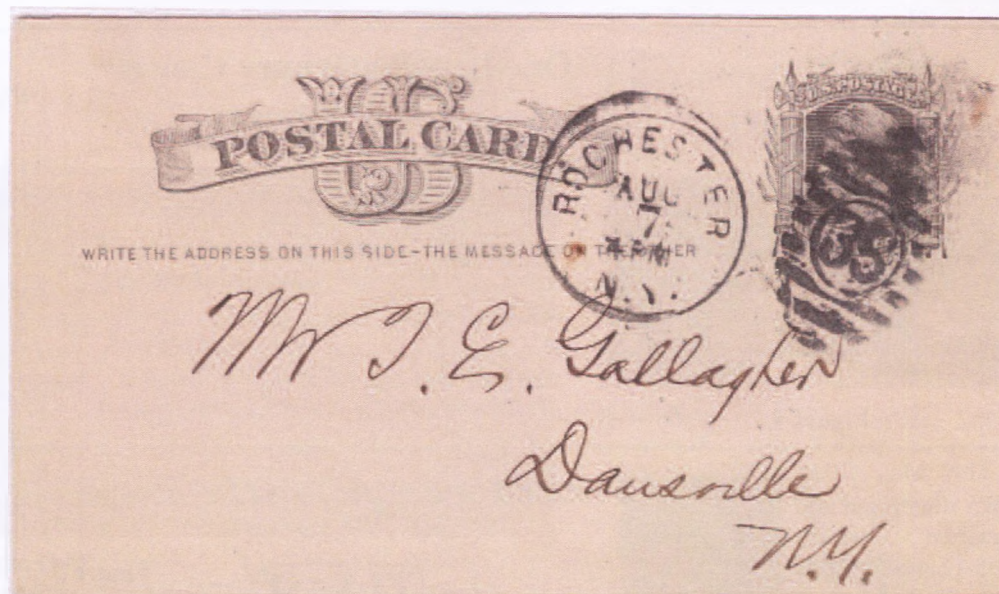


Figure 2

marked Williamsport, Pa. This city is located on the west branch of the Susquehanna River. It was at one time (1860s to about 1890) the center for the timber industry in the middle atlantic states and very prosperous. The cancellation strike is intriguing. The tracing reflects as much of the design as John Donnes was able to capture. The "US" is clear and it is possible that "NUM" is also present. It would be very interesting to see the full design. Can readers report examples of this cancel that show additional details?

Strikes of rubber-faced handstamps

with distortion in the canceler design are not rare or even expecially scarce. Presumably they result from being placed on or near a heat source — a hot radiator, for example. Figure 4 shows a portion of a cover bearing a SC 206 stamp struck by a Philadelphia double oval with a slight but definite distortion beneath and to the right of "PA." Readers are encouraged to submit additional examples of such cancels to the *NEWS*, the more dramatic the better.

Figure 5 presents a most unusual cancellation – "PAY YOUR POSTAGE" in a circle. The card entered the mails at Athens, Texas on July 10, 1885. Athens

is an operating post office in Henderson Co. established in 1850. It was a post office handstamp used as the canceler but not one, of course, designed for use on mail. If a reader can explain what circumstances this handstamp was intended for, please let us know.

Nineteenth century ellipse cancels

are found in large numbers and with great variation. Two uncommon examples are shown in Figures 6 and 7. Republican City is an operating post office established in Harlan Co., Nebraska in 1872. The Lowell, Massachusetts postmark is 1886.

The postmaster at West Sutton,

Massachusetts seems to have been in no great hurry to process the Figure 8 cover and did some work on Washington's profile while canceling the stamp. Such cancel drawings are, of course, occasionally seen, particularly on 1851 and 1857 issue stamps.

The two double ring cancels in Figure 9 were likely part of the same set and used on non-first class mail. I don't believe the post office of origin has been reported in the literature. Who can identify the post office or show numbers beyond "1" and "7" in this canceler style?

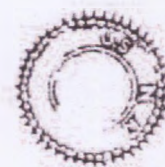


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

Stars

As an adjunct to the article by Ed Field in this issue on star cancellations found on 1869 issue stamps, stars cancelling some other 19th century stamps are shown below.



